



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

March 2, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SELF-HELP LEGAL ACCESS CENTER (SHLAC) EXPANSION AT THE MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH ANTELOPE VALLEY COURTHOUSE (RELATES TO AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 24, 2004)

On February 24, 2004, the Board approved a motion from Supervisor Antonovich instructing:

1. The Chief Administrative Officer to identify the source for the \$64,260 necessary to operate the Antelope Valley SHLAC three days a week, with the remaining two days funded through a grant from the California State Bar;
2. The Director of Consumer Affairs, as the program administrator, to work with Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) of Los Angeles County and the Superior Court to identify the best and most expeditious manner in which to incorporate the Antelope Valley SHLAC into its existing agreement with NLS; and
3. The Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Consumer Affairs to report back to the Board within one week with a joint report.

Funding Source for SHLAC

Currently, there are three County-funded SHLAC offices, located at the courthouses in Van Nuys, Pomona, and Inglewood. The total program cost for all three locations is \$834,000.

Each Supervisor
March 2, 2004
Page 2

The initial funding for the Van Nuys SHLAC came from savings generated from the restructuring of compensation for indigent defense private attorney contracts from hourly rates per case to flat lump sum billing rates in fiscal year 1998-99:

The SHLAC expansion program in Pomona and Inglewood was funded in fiscal year 2002-03 by additional court collection revenue anticipated from expanded collection efforts at Burbank and Lancaster, two courthouse locations that had no collection program in place prior to fiscal year 2002-03.

The fiscal year 2003-04 Adopted Budget for Trial Court revenues is \$160.7 million. As reflected in our 5-month Budget Status Report, our estimate for current year Trial Court revenues is \$154.8 million; this results in a \$5.9 million shortfall. Consequently, there is no funding available in the Trial Court Operations Budget to further expand SHLAC. As an alternative, the Board could appropriate a portion of the \$22.5 million funding in Appropriation for Contingencies for the SHLAC expansion in Antelope Valley through a 4-Vote Budget Adjustment.

Inclusion of the Antelope Valley SHLAC into the existing service agreement with NLS

We consulted with the Department of Consumer Affairs and County Counsel on the feasibility of incorporating the Antelope Valley SHLAC into the existing agreement with NLS and were advised that it is administratively efficient to do so rather than establishing a separate agreement. The current SHLAC contract expires and is subject to renewal at the end of August 2004.

Conclusion

The Board could fund the SHLAC expansion in the Antelope Valley from the Appropriation for Contingencies; however, given the current fiscal situation of the County and uncertainty regarding State funding to local governments, we recommend against the use of scarce County resources to fund this service which supports the State's Trial Court program responsibility.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff my contact Eva Snider of my office at (213) 974-2291.

DEJ:DL
ES:TT:ljp